

## TRUE CRIME STORIES

***After Etan*** by Lisa R. Cohen

Read by Madelyn Buzzard. Reading time 17 hours 19 minutes

Television producer examines the open case of Etan Patz, who disappeared at age six while walking to the school bus stop in his Manhattan neighborhood in 1979. Discusses the key players in the ongoing investigation, including the imprisoned child-molester and drifter whom many believe abducted Etan. Some strong language. 2009.

[Download After Etan, DB71525](#)

***Almost Paradise*** by Kieran Crowley

Read by Jake Williams. Reading time 12 hours 32 minutes

New York Post reporter details the October 2001 murder of multimillionaire Ted Ammon allegedly by his wife Generosa's blue collar lover, Danny Pelosi. Traces Generosa's troubled childhood, Ted's financial success, and Danny's psychiatric problems--all factors in this author's analysis of the crime. Strong language. 2005.

[Download Almost Paradise, DB 60537](#)

***American Lightning*** by Howard Blum

Read by Bob Moore. Reading time 9 hours 51 minutes

Examines the October 1, 1910, bombing of the Los Angeles Times offices that killed twenty-one workers. Chronicles the violent labor disputes that preceded the attack. Discusses the roles of PI Billy Burns, filmmaker D.W. Griffith, and Clarence Darrow, who defended the two brothers accused of the crime. Some violence. Edgar Award. 2008.

[Download American Lightning, DB 68656](#)

***The Anthrax Letters*** by Leonard A. Cole

Read by Butch Hoover. Reading time 11 hours 57 minutes

Bioterrorist expert chronicles the autumn 2001 anthrax attacks that infected twenty-two people and killed five after spores of the odorless, tasteless bacteria were placed in letters and mailed via the U.S. Postal Service. The account also profiles the scientists, doctors, and researchers at the front lines of biological defense. 2003.

[Download The Anthrax Letters, DB57599](#)

***Anyone You Want Me to Be*** by John Douglas

Read by Carol Dines. Reading time 11 hours 23 minutes

Former FBI profiler Douglas traces the case of John Robinson, one of the first known serial killers to find his victims by using the Internet. Explores the Kansas con man's world, his decades-long criminal record, and his ability to lure women into sadomasochistic relationships. Violence, strong language, and some descriptions of sex. 2003.

[Download Anyone You Want Me to Be, DB 58783](#)

***The Birthday Party*** by Stanley N. Alpert

Read by Nick Sullivan. Reading time 11 hours 21 minutes

The author, a New York federal environmental prosecutor and Brooklyn native, describes being kidnapped at gunpoint on the eve of his thirty-eighth birthday, forced into a carload of thugs, and held captive for twenty-five hours. Explains how he later helped police track down his captors. Violence and strong language. 2007.

[Download The Birthday Party, DB66015](#)

***The Butcher*** by Philip Carlo

Read by Bob Moore. Reading time 9 hours 46 minutes

Author of *The Night Stalker* (DB 62844) chronicles mobster assassin Tommy "Karate" Pitera's brutal killings in New York City during the 1980s. Discusses Pitera's life, his associates, and DEA agent Jim Hunt's investigation that led to Pitera's arrest. Violence, strong language, and some descriptions of sex. 2009.

[Download The Butcher, DB 71692](#)

***The Central Park Five*** by Sarah Burns

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee. Reading time 8 hours 44 minutes.

Examines the trial of five black and Latino teenagers convicted of raping and beating New York banker Trisha Meili in 1989 and exonerated in 2002. Describes the social milieu and racial tensions of 1980s New York and their effect on what became known as "the Central Park Jogger" case. 2011.

[Download The Central Park Five, DB 73944](#)

***Circumstantial Evidence*** by Pete Earley

Read by Dan Bloom. Reading time 17 hours 21 minutes

Journalist describes events surrounding the 1986 murder of college student

Ronda Morrison in Monroeville, Alabama. When another young woman is murdered in a nearby town, the suspects in that case offer information on Ronda's murder, and a black man with no record, Walter McMillian, is put on death row for six years until an attorney proves him innocent. Strong language and some violence.

[Download Circumstantial Evidence, DB56675](#)

***A Dance with the Devil*** by Barbara Bentley

Read by Annie Wauters. Reading time 11 hours 29 minutes

A California-based advocate for victims reveals details about her marriage to a man who impersonated an admiral. Discloses the emotional and financial abuse she suffered prior to his attempt to murder her in 1991.

Offers warning signs that suggest someone is a psychopath. Strong language and some violence. 2008.

[Download A Dance with the Devil, DB68464](#)

***The Darkest Night*** by Ron Franscell

Read by Joe Wilson. Reading time 11 hours 3 minutes

Details the 1973 Casper, Wyoming, abduction of two sisters by two men who raped the teen and threw them both from a bridge, killing the younger child. Describes the surviving girl's ongoing troubles and her attackers' lives before and after their swift arrest and conviction. Violence and strong language. 2007.

[Download The Darkest Night, DB71455](#)

***A Deadly Game*** by Catherine Crier

Read by Carol Dines. Reading time 17 hours 13 minutes

Former judge analyzes the California murder case and evidence that Scott Peterson murdered his pregnant wife, Laci, on December 24, 2002, because he had a sociopathic personality. Reconstructs the police investigation, Peterson's suspicious behavior, family dynamics, and the trial that sent Scott to death row. Strong language. Bestseller. 2005.

[Download A Deadly Game, DB60149](#)

***Deadly Innocence*** by Scott Burnside

Read by Ray Foushee. Reading time 20 hours 32 minutes

Reconstructs the Canadian "crime of the century" in which Paul and Karla Bernardo--a seemingly normal newlywed couple--abduct, rape, torture, and

kill teenage girls, including Karla's own sister. Paul also turns out to be the serial "Scarborough Rapist" who haunted Ontario for years. Explicit descriptions of sex, violence, and strong language. 1995.

[Download Deadly Innocence, DB57265](#)

***A Deadly Secret*** by Matt Birkbeck

Read by Christopher Walker. Reading time 8 hours 15 minutes

Investigative reporter recounts the 1982 disappearance of Kathie Durst and the ensuing inquiry through 2002 into whether she was killed by her husband, Robert Durst, heir to a billion dollar empire. Birkbeck centers his account around the work of New York state police investigator Joe Becerra. Strong language. 2002.

[Download A Deadly Secret, DB59794](#)

***The Death of Innocents*** by Richard Firstman

Read by Mitzi Friedlander. Reading time 31 hours 33 minutes

One at a time, five siblings died in their New York state home over the course of six years. The deaths were considered accidental and attributed to sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) until twenty years later when a dogged district attorney revisited the matter and convicted the mother of murdering her children. Strong language.

[Download The Death of Innocents, DB45751](#)

***Death Sentence*** by Jerry Bledsoe

Read by Steven Carpenter. Reading time 12 hours 45 minutes

Follows the case of a North Carolina woman who was executed in 1984 for poisoning four people (including her mother and her fiancé) with arsenic. Includes interviews with her children and describes her jailhouse religious conversion. Some violence and some strong language. 1998.

[Download Death Sentence, DB56796](#)

***Deaths on Pleasant Street*** by Giles Fowler

Read by Gregory Gorton. Reading time 8 hours 28 minutes

Reconstructs the 1909 murder case that shocked early twentieth-century America. Kansas City doctor Bennett Clark Hyde was accused of poisoning his wife's uncle, philanthropist Colonel Thomas Swope, and creating a typhoid outbreak among the Swope family to inherit their fortune. Details Hyde's initial trial and subsequent appeals. 2009.

[Download Deaths on Pleasant Street, DB72594](#)

***Dillinger's Wild Ride*** by Elliott J. Gorn

Read by Joe Wilson. Reading time 12 hours 45 minutes

Chronicles the final year in the life of John Dillinger (1903-1934). Details the crime spree that began a month after his release from nine years in prison and ended with his death at the hands of federal agents. Describes bank robberies and shoot-outs and discusses Dillinger's lingering pop-culture presence. 2009.

[Download Dillinger's Wild Ride, DB71465](#)

***Erased*** by Marilee Strong

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee. Reading time 13 hours 39 minutes

Drawing upon her research of the Scott and Laci Peterson case, journalist Strong explores more than fifty similar murders she terms "eraser killings." Describes well-planned intimate-partner homicides that employed soft-kill methods and left no evidence to link the murderer to his victim. Some violence and some strong language. 2008.

[Download Erased, DB71373](#)

***Finding Chandra*** by Scott Higham

Read by Chuck Young. Reading time 7 hours 3 minutes

Washington Post reporters chronicle the 2001 disappearance of federal intern Chandra Levy; the initial focus on Rep. Gary Condit, who had an affair with Levy; the discovery of her remains; and the arrest of a suspect eight years later. Some violence and some strong language. Edgar Award nominee. 2010.

[Download Finding Chandra, DB73191](#)

***For the Color of His Skin*** by John DeSantis Read by Ralph Lowenstein.

Reading time 9 hours 10 minutes

On a summer night in 1989, a group of white youths in the Brooklyn neighborhood of Bensonhurst arm themselves with baseball bats and await a rumored onslaught of Hispanics. Unaware of this situation, black teenager Yusuf Hawkins and friends arrive to look at a used car. Yusuf's murder and the following trials incite city-wide racial dissent. Violence and some strong language.

[Download For the Color of His Skin, DB34545](#)

***Getting Away with Murder*** Case by Chris Crowe

Read by Bill Wallace. Reading time 3 hours 12 minutes

Account of a fourteen-year-old African American boy from Chicago who was murdered in 1955 while visiting relatives in Mississippi. Emmett Till, accused of flirting with a white woman, was subsequently killed by her husband and brother-in-law, who escaped punishment. Some violence and some strong language. For senior high and older readers. 2003.

[Download Getting Away with Murder, DB 57157](#)

***Great Train Robberies of the West*** by Eugene B. Block

Read by Charlie Ryle. Reading time 8 hours 13 minutes

Accounts of several sensational robberies, from the 1870 holdup of the Central Pacific Railroad to that of the Sunset Limited in 1933.

[Download Great Train Robberies of the West, DB23878](#)

***The Guns of Meeting Street*** by T. Felder Dorn

Read by Roy Avers. Reading time 14 hours 16 minutes

Reconstructs a series of murders in the early 1940s involving the Logue and Timmerman families of rural South Carolina. Details motivations behind the crimes and subsequent trials that culminated in executions of three persons, including the first woman sent to the electric chair in the state.

[Download The Guns of Meeting Street, DB58034](#)

***Helter Skelter*** by Vincent Bugliosi

Read by Ray Foushee. Reading time 23 hours 54 minutes

Bugliosi prosecuted the 1969 murder case against cult leader Charles Manson and his followers. Among the brutal deaths attributed to the group is the mass murder of actress Sharon Tate and her house guests. Bugliosi gives detailed descriptions of the crime scenes, the frustrating investigation, the arrest and trial, and the retaliation murders. Strong language and violence.

[Download Helter Skelter, DB36994](#)

***Honeymoon with a Killer*** by Don Lasseter

Read by Joe Wilson. Reading time 12 hours 9 minutes

Describes the short, troubled marriage of Rebecca Salcedo and Bruce Cleland, which ended with the 1997 shooting death of Bruce during a supposed carjacking. Details events surrounding the murder and the

subsequent arrests and trials of Rebecca and her two cousins. Some violence and some descriptions of sex. 2009.

[Download Honeymoon with a Killer, DB72791](#)

***I Am Murdered*** by Bruce Chadwick

Read by Jake Williams. Reading time 10 hours 31 minutes

Chronicles the deathbed accusation of George Wythe, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and a mentor to Thomas Jefferson, who alleged that his grandnephew George Wythe Sweeney had poisoned him. Historian Chadwick researches the trial, Virginia social conditions, forensics, and laws prohibiting slave testimony. 2009.

[Download I Am Murdered, DB70874](#)

***In Cold Blood*** Truman Capote

Read by Ray Hagen. Reading time 11 hours 54 minutes

The author coined the term 'nonfiction novel' for this account of the murder of a Kansas family. He reconstructs the crime and the backgrounds and personalities of all the principals, drawing his information from observation, interviews, and official records.

[Download In Cold Blood, DB22726](#)

***In His Sights*** by Kate Brennan

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee. Reading time 7 hours 58 minutes

Writing from a secret location, the author describes being stalked by her wealthy former lover Paul, who has pursued her for more than thirteen years. Details repeated moves and identity changes to escape Paul's harassment, which includes threatening calls, notes, and break-ins. Some strong language. 2008.

[Download In His Sights, DB70882](#)

***In the Middle of the Night*** by Brian McDonald

Read by Joe Wilson. Reading time 7 hours 31 minutes.

Describes the July 23, 2007, murders of Dr. William Petit's wife and daughters by two career criminals who broke into the Petit home in Cheshire, Connecticut. Details the background of the family members and their accused killers. Violence and strong language. 2009.

[Download In the Middle of the Night, DB73407](#)



***Joyce Ann Brown*** by Joyce Ann Brown

Read by Gail Nelson. Reading time 7 hours 29 minutes

Experiences of an African American Texas woman wrongly convicted of robbery and murder in 1980. Brown recounts the bewildering criminal trial that resulted in a life sentence, her nightmare behind bars, and her nine-year struggle to prove her innocence. Some explicit descriptions of sex and some strong language. 1990.

[Download Joyce Ann Brown, DB57325](#)

***The Meaning of Matthew*** by Judy Shepard

Read by Nicola Daval. Reading time 6 hours 30 minutes

Shepard discusses her gay son Matthew's life, events surrounding his brutal 1998 murder, and her gay-rights activism. Describes the conviction of two Laramie men for beating the slightly built, twenty-one-year-old student unconscious--supposedly for flirting with them--and leaving him tied to a fence to die. Violence and some strong language. 2009.

[Download The Meaning of Matthew, DB71849](#)

***Mockery of Justice*** Case by Cynthia L. Cooper

Read by Jim Zeiger. Reading time 18 hours 15 minutes

In 1954 someone murdered pregnant Marilyn Sheppard in her bed. The testimony of her husband, Dr. Sam Sheppard, was disregarded, and he was found guilty. In 1966, due to attorney F. Lee Bailey, Dr. Sheppard was set free. The Sheppards' son has coauthored this account of the events surrounding the crime and points to four possible culprits. Some violence.

[Download Mockery of Justice, DB42024](#)

***Murder City*** by Charles Bowden

Read by Mark Delgado. Reading time 11 hours 9 minutes

Describes escalating violence toward citizens and law-enforcement officials in Juarez, Mexico, in 2008. Suggests that the country's failing economy and military corruption contribute to drug cartels' rise in power. Details several of the murders and portrays locals, who live in constant fear. Violence.

[Download Murder City, DB72168](#)

***Murder in Italy*** by Candace Dempsey

Read by David Hartley-Margolin. Reading time 12 hours 56 minutes.

Detailed account of the 2007 murder of British student Meredith Kercher in



Perugia, Italy, and the arrests of her American roommate Amanda Knox, Amanda's Italian boyfriend, and a local acquaintance. Explores the intense media interest in the case and Knox's support in her hometown of Seattle. Some strong language. 2010.

[Download Murder in Italy, DB73008](#)

***My Stolen Son*** by Susan Markowitz

Read by Mare Trevathan. Reading time 8 hours 12 minutes

Describes the 2000 murder of the author's fifteen-year-old son Nick.

Explains that the killers were young men who had a drug dispute with Nick's half-brother. Discusses Nick's life and the nine-year search for Jesse James Hollywood, who fled the country after arranging Nick's death.

Strong language and some violence. 2010.

[Download My Stolen Son, DB73417](#)

***The Officer's Wife*** by Michael Fleeman

Read by Jim Zeiger. Reading time 11 hours 3 minutes

Recounts the 2000 slaying of air force captain Marty Theer outside his wife Michelle's Fayetteville, North Carolina, office building. Describes the investigation that led to the arrest and conviction of Michelle, a psychologist, and her lover, an army staff sergeant she met on line. Some explicit descriptions of sex. 2006.

[Download The Officer's Wife, DB66225](#)

***Out There*** by Diane Fanning

Read by Annie Wauters. Reading time 7 hours 59 minutes

Details circumstances surrounding NASA astronaut Lisa Nowak's 2007 assault on Air Force captain Colleen Shipman, who was dating Nowak's former lover, fellow astronaut Bill Oefelein. Describes events leading up to and following the attack, including Nowak's career highlights and her arrest. Some strong language. 2007.

[Download Out There, DB68480](#)

***Revenge*** by Laura Blumenfeld

Read by Madelyn Buzzard. Reading time 13 hours 31 minutes

Memoir of a Jewish American reporter, honeymooning in Jerusalem, who seeks retaliation against the Palestinian terrorist who wounded her father a decade earlier. Blumenfeld uses her journalist's credentials to cultivate the

shooter's family. But as she pursues her quarry, the impersonal enemy is humanized, and Blumenfeld's perspective shifts dramatically. Some violence. 2002.

[Download Revenge, DB55288](#)

***A Rip in Heaven*** by Jeanine Cummins

Read by Jill Fox. Reading time 9 hours 35 minutes

Author recounts a deadly April 1991 family vacation, during which four men assaulted her cousins, Julie and Robin, and her nineteen-year-old brother, Tom, on a Mississippi River bridge. Describes how sole survivor Tom was the prime suspect until police identified the real killers. Strong language and some violence. 2004.

[Download A Rip in Heaven, DB59605](#)

***The Road out of Hell*** by Anthony Flacco

Read by John Polk. Reading time 10 hours 44 minutes

Detailed account of Stewart Northcott's 1920s murder spree in Wineville, California. Flacco uses newspaper articles, court transcripts, and interviews to inform a narrative written primarily from the perspective of Northcott's teenage nephew Sanford Clark, an unwilling accomplice whom Northcott sexually abused. Violence, strong language, and explicit descriptions of sex. 2009.

[Download The Road out of Hell, DB70678](#)

***Seven Days of Rage*** by Paul LaRosa

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee. Reading time 4 hours 56 minutes

Recounts the 2009 crimes of Boston University medical student Philip Markoff, who robbed women at gunpoint in their hotel rooms and killed one who fought back. Explains how Markoff found victims through their Craigslist ads and details police use of cell-phone and computer records to track the unlikely suspect. 2009.

[Download Seven Days of Rage, DB71436](#)

***Smoke, Mirrors, and Murder*** by Ann Rule

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee. Reading time 12 hours 42 minutes

Marriages gone wrong are featured in this true-crime collection. In "The Deputy's Wife," a retired cop plotted to have his family killed so he could inherit his wife's money. "The Minister's Wife" recounts the murder of the

Reverend Winkler by his quiet wife. Some violence and some strong language. 2008.

[Download Smoke, Mirrors, and Murder, DB66245](#)

***A Stolen Life*** by Jaycee Dugard

Read by Mare Trevathan. Reading time 6 hours

The author describes her 1991 abduction at age eleven by parolee Phillip Garrido and his wife. Recounts her eighteen years of captivity, during which she endured sexual abuse and raised two daughters, and her 2009 discovery and rescue. Strong language, explicit descriptions of sex, and some violence. Bestseller. 2011.

[Download A Stolen Life, DB73692](#)

***Who Killed My Daughter?*** by Lois Duncan

Read by Kerry Cundiff. Reading time 8 hours 37 minutes.

Duncan, author of young adult books, writes about the 1989 shooting death of her eighteen- year-old daughter Kaitlyn. Not content with the police decision that it was a random killing, Duncan uses a psychic and other source to uncover some disturbing information about her daughter's activities. She hopes this book will elicit even more information. Some strong language. 1992.

[Download Who Killed My Daughter?, DB35697](#)

**Note:** This list was produced by the Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library in Missouri. Rhode Island Talking Books Plus members should order these titles through RI Talking Books Plus. To download, Talking Books Plus members should be signed up for [BARD](#).